

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 020459
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY AF/S:FGWISNER:RCB
APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY
AF:WESCHAUFLELE
P:PCHABIB
S/S:MR. ORTIZ

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O 290030Z JAN 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 020459

NODIS
FOR THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MESSAGE FOR CHIEF OF STATE OBASANJO

1. PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO CHIEF OF STATE
OBASANJO FROM THE SECRETARY.

2. QTE DEAR GENERAL OBASANJO: THE PRESIDENT WROTE YOU
TO SAY THAT I WOULD BE IN TOUCH. I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE AN
EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO COMMUNICATE OUR VIEWS ON THE
RHODESIAN SITUATION. YOU KNOW THAT IAN SMITH'S JANUARY 24
SPEECH CAME AS AN UNPLEASANT SURPRISE. THE UNITED STATES
HAD GIVEN ITS SUPPORT TO THE BRITISH AND TO THE PROPOSALS
WHICH THEY HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING IN SOUTHERN AFRICA
DURING THE PAST THREE WEEKS. WE HAD HOPED THAT THE
SALISBURY AUTHORITIES AND THE ZIMBABWE NATIONALISTS WOULD
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ACCEPT THESE PROPOSALS AS A BASIS FOR FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS
EVEN THOUGH WE RECOGNIZED THAT DURING THE COURSE OF TALKS
IMPORTANT CONCESSIONS WOULD BE REQUIRED FROM ALL PARTIES
IF A SETTLEMENT WAS TO BE REACHED.

3. QTE OUR SUPPORT FOR THE BRITISH FRAMEWORK OF A
SETTLEMENT REMAINS UNDIMINISHED. WE HAVE STATED PUBLICLY

THAT SMITH'S REFERENCE TO AN INTERNAL SOLUTION ENJOYS NO AMERICAN SUPPORT AND HAVE INFORMED HIM THAT IF A DEADLOCK IN THE NEGOTIATIONS IS REACHED, HE MUST EXPECT STIFF AMERICAN OPPOSITION. THE ADMINISTRATION INTENDS TO REPEAL THE BYRD AMENDMENT AND THE PRESIDENT HAS ASKED ME TO TELL YOU THAT WE ARE BEGINNING EFFORTS TOWARDS THIS END. ON MONDAY, JANUARY 31, I PLAN TO MEET THE PRESS AND RECONFIRM OUR COMMITMENT TO MAJORITY RULE AND A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. I WILL RESTATE OUR OPPOSITION TO THE COURSE WHICH IAN SMITH HAS INDICATED. I AM SURE YOU AGREE THAT A FULL AND CAREFUL REVIEW OF THE SITUATION IS IN ORDER. WE ARE IN CLOSE AND REGULAR CONSULTATIONS WITH THE BRITISH. AS OUR REVIEW PROCEEDS, I COUNT ON STAYING IN COMMUNICATION WITH YOU AND LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING THE ADVICE OF THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT. IN THE MEANTIME, I HOPE I CAN COUNT ON YOUR SUPPORT IN URGING ALL PARTIES TO ACT IN A MANNER WHICH WILL CONTRIBUTE TO A RENEWED SEARCH FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION.

4. QTE I UNDERSTAND THAT AMBASSADOR ANDREW YOUNG WILL BE VISITING TANZANIA AT THE SAME TIME YOU ARE AND WILL THEN PROCEED TO NIGERIA. I HOPE THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO RECEIVE HIM AND GIVE HIM YOUR ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND ANY SUGGESTIONS YOU HAVE ON HOW TO IMPROVE PROSPECTS FOR A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEMS THERE. I WOULD ALSO WELCOME YOUR VIEWS ON HOW OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS CAN BE FURTHER REINFORCED.

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5. QTE IF WE WORK TOGETHER AS CLOSELY AS I KNOW WE CAN, AND PERSEVERE, I REMAIN HOPEFUL THAT WE CAN ACHIEVE THE OUTCOME FOR ZIMBABWE WHICH ALL OF US SEEK.

6. QTE RESPECTFULLY, CYRUS R. VANCE. UNQTE.
VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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